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Foreword

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Foreword

For nineteen years, the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* has provided a forum for alternative legal discourse, exploring topics ranging from changing family structure to international human rights to issues surrounding sexuality and race.

The founding members of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* sought to create a space that allowed and encouraged its members and the legal community at large to explore areas of family law, feminist theory, and equal protection. Today, the *Journal* is proud to continue that tradition and provide a forum for cutting-edge social justice issues. Recent developments in family law, such as the changing legal status of same-sex relationships, conceptions of gender, and advances in reproductive technology, inspired us during the course of 2007-2008. We hope they inspire you as well.

This year, our Nineteenth Annual Symposium entitled "Family Frontiers: Emerging Legal Issues in the Post-Nuclear Era," explored a range of family law-related topics, including alternative reproduction and adoption, youth empowerment, and elder law. Panel speakers provided a range of perspectives, and brought their experiences from organizations such as Larkin Street Youth Services, Peace Over Violence, the Ella Baker Center, the Center for WorkLife Law, and Legal Assistance for Seniors. The keynote address, provided by Jill Hersh, 2006 *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year, presented an inspirational first-hand account of the same-sex parental rights cases she argued before the California Supreme Court. Ms. Hersh embodied the Symposium's topic by illustrating the challenge of adapting legal norms to the changing nature of "family." We thank Executive Symposium Editor Shannon Little for her commitment and expertise in organizing such an amazing event.

In Volume 19.2, we are pleased to continue the momentum created by our Symposium and present a range of family law pieces. The Articles in this Volume explore two fascinating topics; one examines non-traditional reproduction through a discussion of posthumous reproduction in Nigeria; another poses an approach to recognizing three-parent families within the context of same-sex relationships. The Notes continue these themes by discussing issues of domestic violence in same-sex relationships, the legal status of transgender youth, and approaches to implementing international human rights norms into U.S. jurisprudence. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Executive Articles Editor Laura Thomason and Senior

Articles Editors Florence Yu, Dao Lam, Kyna Hsiao, and Pepper Austin; their tireless efforts and dedication made the production of this *Journal* possible.

In addition to publishing an academic journal, the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* seeks to foster a supportive atmosphere in which members are encouraged to engage in activities that further our mission and promote the kind of community in which we hope to reside. This year, the *Journal* partnered with Law Students for Reproductive Justice to organize a clothing drive for women entering or re-entering the workforce. By partnering with other student organizations, the *Journal* continues its work toward bringing together members of the Hastings community and promoting underrepresented social and legal issues.

On a personal note, we feel honored to have had the opportunity to work, laugh, and dialogue with such a wonderful group of women and men who currently constitute the *Hastings Women's Law Journal*. Having the opportunity to serve as your Co-Editors-in-Chief has been a privilege, and we hope to have created a memorable experience that you will pass along to future law students and *Journal* members. In addition to the amazing support we received from our Executive Articles Editor Laura Thomason and Executive Symposium Editor Shannon Little, the road would not have been nearly so smooth nor as interesting without the unwavering support and assistance of our Managing Editor Jessica Tankersley. We would also like to thank our Executive Public Relations Editor Pauline Self for organizing so many wonderful *Journal* events.

As did the *Journal* founders, the 2007-2008 members of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* have "poured our enthusiasm, our frustration, and our hopes for the future" into Volume 19.2. We hope you will be proud.

Emily Wood
Amanda Kennedy
Co-Editors-in-Chief, Volume 19